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Message Text

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43
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

SAM-01 DRC-01 /115 W
---------- 113770
R 231000Z SEP 74
FM AMCONSUL LUANDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2949
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT AO
SUBJECT: JOURNALIST SACKED BY JUNTA

1. PEREIRA DA COSTA, ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNMENT OWNED BUT INDEPENDENTLY EDITED DIARIO DE LUANDA, WAS REMOVED FROM HIS POSITION ON SEPT 18 BY ORDER OF ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO, HEAD OF THE ANGOLAN JUNTA. THE COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING HIS REMOVAL STATED THAT THE DIARIO HAD SHOWN A "LACK OF INDEPENDENCE AND OBJECTIVENESS" UNDER DA COSTA'S CONTROL. THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL COMMUNICATION (INFORMATION), CORREIA JANEIRIO, ELABORATED ON THIS POINT IN A PRESS CONFERENCE SAYING DA COSTA WAS A "REACTIONARY" AND WAS "SABOTAGING ACTS OF THE GOVERNMENT." HE CONTINUED THAT IT WAS THE ROLE OF OFFICIAL MEDIA "NOT TO HAVE OPINIONS BUT SIMPLY TO INFORM." A COMMISSION WILL BE APPOINTED TO RUN THE PAPER.

2. DA COSTA'S REPLY, IN THE FORM OF A LETTER PUBLISHED BY THE TWO OTHER LUANDA DAILIES, SAID HE FELT HIS REMOVAL WAS "AN ACT OF VIOLENCE, ILLEGAL AND UNDEMOCRATIC"; "IDENTICAL IN ITS CONTEMPT FOR THE LAW AS WAS THE OLD REGIME," AND THAT IT WAS DONE WITHOUT ONE PIECE OF EVIDENCE TO BACK UP THE JUNTAS' CLAIM.

3. ALL THREE LUANDA DAILIES HAVE GRADUALLY ADOPTED A CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL LINE. THE PAPERS HAVE NOT BEEN HOSTILE OR CRITICAL
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OF THE JUNTA, THE MFA OR THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS BUT THEY HAVE NOT SUPPORTED THE POLICIES OF THE JUNTA. ON THE OTHER HAND,

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THEY HAVE GIVEN PROMINENT DAILY COVERAGE TO THE WHITE PARTIES, PARTICULARLY PCDA AND FERNANDO FALCAO'S FUA AND WERE SYMPATHETIC TO THE WHITE "MOVIMENTO LIVRE" IN MOZAMBIQUE. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE JUNTA DECIDED ACTION WAS NEEDED TO TONE DOWN THE PRO-WHITE PRESS AND PICKED ON DA COSTA BECAUSE, AS THE DIRECTOR OF A GOVERNMENT-SUBSIDIZED PAPER, HE WAS THE EASIEST TARGET.
KILLORAN

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